

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 5, 2005 has been carefully considered. In that Action, Claims 17-69 were pending and Claims 17-69 were rejected. Those rejections are traversed. Claim 17 is currently amended to clarify that the present invention is water-dispersible, as recited on page 77 of the application as filed. Claim 17 is also amended to include the limitation “a hydrophilic component of Structure III”. The Structure III limitation finds support, inter alia, in currently cancelled Claim 55. As such, Claims 17-54 and 56-69 remain in the application with none of the Claims being allowed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19, 23, 44-58, 60 and 62-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0034903 to Shoemaker et al. (hereinafter “Shoemaker et al.”).

Initially, it is important to note that Shoemaker et al. fails to teach the benefits of the present invention.

Additionally, Shoemaker et al. fails to teach how to maximize the performance of the treatment, such as, improving the ratio of (Average Moisture Transport With Treatment and After Five Launderings) to (Average Moisture Transport With Treatment and No Launderings) through modifying the composition of the treatment. More importantly, however, Shoemaker et al. fails to teach or disclose applicants’ treatment agent.

Shoemaker et al.’s treatments “are composed of polyoxyethylene adipamide segments and poly(hexamethylene adipamide) segments” (page 2, paragraph 23). Shoemaker et al. fails to disclose a treatment using the hydrophilic component of Structure III. By way of example, Shoemaker et al. does not disclose or suggest the positioning or number of applicants’ (C₂H₄O)₆ segments included in Structure III.

Sheet for 1,2 propanediol, showing, inter alia, to seek immediate medical advice after skin contact with 1,2 propanediol).

Applicants' treatment agent, however, requires no solvent to facilitate dissolution of the copolymer. Using applicants' treatment, wearers do not risk exposure to such harmful chemicals. Applicants' water-dispersible treatment agent also allows for additional advantages. For example, as taught in applicants' specification:

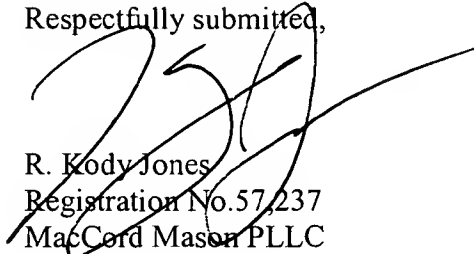
The polyamide treatment agent made by any of the above-described routes may be distributed as any of a solid and a liquid. For example, a solid may be a flaked or ground agent that may be incorporated in a powdered detergent. Also, for example, a liquid may be an agent diluted in water as a solution or dispersion that is chargeable directly into the textile equipment. Techniques that may be used for a liquid include heating to a high temperature, homogenizing and agitating by high shear.

Thus wearers can apply treatment agent in the home, e.g. by adding either a liquid or solid to a normal wash cycle. Such an application can take place without exposing the wearer, washer or young children to harmful chemicals that would be required by Shoemaker.

Because Claims 18-69 depend from Claim 17, they include all the limitations contained therein. Additionally, regarding Claims 55, and the claims that depend there from, applicants submit that that Shoemaker fails to disclose the $(C_2H_4O)_6$ limitation of Structure III. Regarding Claims 62-64, it is respectfully submitted that the Office has failed to point out where or how Shoemaker provides the claimed limitations.

It is submitted that all Claims are currently allowable, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Kody Jones
Registration No. 57,237
MacCord Mason PLLC
P. O. Box 2974
Greensboro, NC 27402
(336) 273-4422

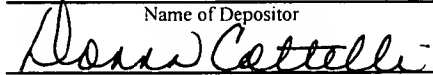
Date: May 4, 2006
File No.: 1067-021

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